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REMARKS:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-14 and 16-18 have been amended for clarification. Claims 3, 9 and 15 remain cancelled. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-14 and 16-18 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112(2):

Claims 4-6, 10-12 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112(2) for various informalities. Each of these claims has been amended taking the Examiner's comments into consideration.

In view of the above amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara (U.S. Pat. No. 5,938,725) in view of Spencer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,349,299). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hara discusses determining a destination address of an electronic mail message from stored electronic mail messages. In the Hara system, electronic mail (or e-mail) is stored and when a keyword is input, an e-mail including this keyword is retrieved from storage (see, col. 5, line 64 through col. 6, line 6 of Hara). An e-mail address included in the retrieved e-mail is extracted as an e-mail address of a transmission destination candidate, allowing the user to select the destination e-mail address from a list of candidate destination e-mail addresses (see, col. 6, lines 28-41 of Hara).

The Examiner acknowledges that Hara does not disclose an extracting unit that automatically extracts at least one mail address contained in a text of the e-mail received, and thus, relies on Spencer as teaching the same. Spencer discusses a computer to parse selected electronic contact information into fields of a record for storage without an address book program needing to be opened. (see, abstract of Spencer). Spencer discusses a system that "enables a user to select electronic contact information, have that information parsed into fields of the database in which it is to be stored, and then stored in an electronic address book database, all without opening the electronic address book interface program." (see, col. 3, lines 34-39 of Spencer) (Emphasis added). Thus, parsing only occurs after a user selects the contact information. Further, the system may automatically place into an appointment record, user

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selected electronic contact information. (see, col. 7, lines 31-35 of Spencer).

The combination of Hara and Spencer is an apparatus for determining a destination address of an electronic mail message from stored electronic mail messages, and arranging the destination addresses in an address book for selection by a user, that once selected may be automatically stored in a database.

In contrast to the cited references, each of the independent claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13 and 14 recite an automatic extraction of at least one mail address from the text of the received E-mail (using claim 1 by way of example), the present invention judges "whether or not a reply destination mail address extracted from an E-mail received is an address of a mailing list capable of broadcasting the same E-mail to a plurality of destinations at one time" and *automatically extracts at least one mail address contained in a text of the E-mail received when the reply destination mail address is the address of the mailing list.*" (Emphasis added).

Further, independent claims 1 and 2 recite that the execution unit "does not extract any mail address contained in the text of the E-mail received when the reply destination mail address is not the address of the mailing list". Independent claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 also recite, "no mail address contained in the text of the E-mail received being extracted when the reply destination mail address is not the address of the mailing list." The automatic extraction of the mail address eliminates the laborious task of individually inputting mailing addresses of an e-mail to be broadcast.

Hara, either alone or in any combination with Spencer, does not teach or suggest a system which automatically extracts an E-mail address from the text of the received E-mail when the reply destination is judged to be a mailing list. Rather, as noted above, Spencer only automatically stores *selected contact information* that has been parsed to locate the contact information fields. Thus, the combination of Hara and Spencer require that a user take an action of selecting the possible contact information in a received E-mail before any extraction takes place. Further, the combination of Hara and Spencer do not teach or suggest that the fact that the reply destination is a mailing list causes the extraction to occur.

Dependent claims 4-6, 10-12 and 16-18 are allowable for at least their dependence upon allowable independent claims. Further, these claims recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 6 recites "a display unit which displays, when visibly displaying all the extracted mail addresses as the reply destination *candidates*, the name of the mail address extracted from the text of the received E-mail and unregistered in the mail address book as the

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name unknown in the format of corresponding to the mail address." (Emphasis added). Hara does not teach or suggest the highlighted elements above. The Action points to FIG. 4 as disclosing the limitations of claim 6. However, Hara does not teach or suggest extracting a mail address from the text of the E-mail and listing the name as unknown when the extracted mail address is not registered. As another example, claim 17 recites "storing, if the mail address extracted from the text of the E-mail received is not registered in the mail address book, a name of this unregistered mail address as a name unknown in the mail address book in a format of corresponding to the mail address."

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

CONCLUSION:

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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on December 13, 2004
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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Date: December 13, 2004